



PATENT
Atty. Dkt. MRKS/3039.C1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:
Bernd-Georg Pietras

Serial No.: 10/621,971

Confirmation No.: 2036

Filed: July 17, 2003

For: APPARATUS AND METHOD
FOR FACILITATING THE
CONNECTION OF TUBULARS
USING A TOP DRIVE

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Group Art Unit: 3672

Examiner: Frank Tsay

Customer No.: 36735

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING
37 CFR 1.8

Dear Sir:

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

The Applicant, and the Attorney who signs below on the basis of the information supplied by the inventor and the information in his file, submit herewith patents, publications, or other information of which they are aware, which may be material to the examination of this application and in respect of which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 CFR § 1.56.

While the information submitted in this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement may be material pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.56, it is not intended to constitute an admission that any patent, publication, or other information referred to therein is prior art for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.97, this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made

or that no other possibly material information as defined under 37 CFR § 1.56(a) exists.

The patents and/or publications submitted herewith are set forth on the attached Form PTO-1449.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the sum of \$180.00 due under 37 CFR § 1.17(p) pursuant to § 1.97, and any other fee necessary to make this submission timely, to the Deposit Account No. 20-0782/MRKS/A0039C1/KDC.

Respectfully submitted,

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U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1

of 12

Application Number	10/621,971
Filing Date	July 17, 2003
First Named Inventor	Bernd Georg Pietras
Group Art Unit	3672
Examiner Name	Frank Tsay
Attorney Docket Number	MRKS/0039.C1
Customer No.	36735

Submission Date January 11, 2005

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
	A1	US-2,167,338	07-25-1939	Murcell	
	A2	US-2,228,503	01-14-1941	Boyd, et al.	
	A3	US-2,370,832	03-06-1945	Baker	
	A4	US-2,379,800	07-03-1945	Hare	
	A5	US-2,414,719	01-21-1947	Cloud	
	A6	US-2,720,267	10-11-1955	Brown	
	A7	US-2,741,907	06-06-1997	Genender, et al.	
	A8	US-3,006,415	10-31-1961	Burns, et al.	
	A9	US-3,041,901	07-03-1962	Knights	
	A10	US-3,054,100	09-11-1962	Jones	
	A11	US-3,090,031	05-14-1963	Lord	
	A12	US-3,111,179	11-19-1963	Albers, et al.	
	A13	US-3,117,636	01-24-1964	Wilcox, et al.	
	A14	US-3,124,023	3-10-1964	Marquis, et al.	
	A15	US-3,131,769	05-05-1964	Rochemont	
	A16	US-3,193,116	07-06-1965	Kenneday, et al.	
	A17	US-3,419,079	12-31-1968	Current	
	A18	US-3,548,936	12-22-1970	Kilgore, et al.	

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Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)				
	B1	CA 2 335 192	11-30-2001	Kozak		
	B2	DE 3 523 221	02-01-1987	Svetozar		
	B3	DE 3 918 132	12-14-1989	Eriksson		
	B4	EP 0 474 481	03-11-1992	Moody		
	B5	EP 0 087 373	08-31-1983	Plaquin		

Date Considered**Examiner**

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
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Sheet 2

of 12

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		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
A19	US-3,552,507		01-05-1971	Brown	
A20	US-3,552,848		01-05-1971	Van Wagner	
A21	US-3,566,505		03-02-1971	Martin	
A22	US-3,602,302		08-31-1971	Kluth	
A23	US-3,606,664		09-21-1971	Weiner	
A24	US-3,635,105		01-18-1972	Dickmann, et al.	
A25	US-3,680,412		08-01-1972	Mayer, et al.	
A26	US-3,691,825		09-19-1972	Dyer	
A27	US-3,696,332		10-03-1972	Dickson, Jr., et al.	
A28	US-3,776,320		12-04-1973	Brown	
A29	US-3,776,991		12-04-1973	Marcus	
A30	US-3,848,684		11-19-1974	West	
A31	US-3,857,450		12-31-1974	Guier	
A32	US-3,913,687		10-21-1975	Gyongyosi, et al.	
A33	US-4,054,332		10-18-1977	Bryan, Jr.	
A34	US-4,095,865		06-20-1978	Denison, et al.	
A35	US-4,127,927		12-05-1978	Hauk, et al.	
A36	US-4,194,383		03-25-1980	Huzyak	

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		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)				
B6	EP 0 162 000		11-21-1985	Hamilton		
B7	EP 0 171 144		02-12-1986	Stringfellow, et al.		
B8	EP 0 285 386		10-05-1988	Haney		
B9	EP 0 426 123		05-08-1991	Reis, et al.		
B10	EP 0 525 247		02-03-1993	Willis		

Date Considered**Examiner**

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First Named Inventor	Bernd Georg Pietras
Group Art Unit	3672
Examiner Name	Frank Tsay
Attorney Docket Number	MRKS/0039.C1
Customer No.	36735

Sheet 3

of 12

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		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
	A37	US-4,227,197	10-07-1980	Nimmo, et al.	
	A38	US-4,241,878	12-30-1980	Underwood	
	A38	US-4,277,197	07-07-1981	Bingham	
	A40	US-4,280,380	07-28-1981	Eshghy	
	A41	US-4,311,195	01-19-1982	Mullins, II	
	A42	US-4,392,534	07-12-1983	Miida	
	A43	US-4,407,378	10-04-1983	Thomas	
	A44	US-4,427,063	01-24-1984	Skinner	
	A45	US-4,437,363	03-20-1984	Haynes	
	A46	US-4,445,734	05-01-1984	Cunningham	
	A47	US-4,449,596	05-22-1984	Boyadjieff	
	A48	US-4,494,424	01-22-1985	Bates	
	A49	US-4,529,045	07-16-1985	Boyadjieff, et al.	
	A50	US-4,570,706	02-18-1986	Pugnet	
	A51	US-4,592,125	06-03-1986	Skene	
	A52	US-4,593,773	06-10-1986	Skeie	
	A53	US-4,605,268	08-12-1986	Meador	
	A54	US-4,625,796	12-02-1986	Boyadjieff	

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		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)				
	B11	EP 0 589 823	03-03-1994	Busink, et al.		
	B12	EP 0 659 975	06-28-1995	Nagaoka, et al.		
	B13	EP 0 790 386	08-20-1997	Newton, et al.		
	B14	EP 0 881 354	04-24-1998	Vercaemmen, et al.		
	B15	EP 0 962 384	12-08-1999	Poldervaart		

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Sheet 4

of 12

Application Number 10/621,971

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First Named Inventor Bernd Georg Pietras

Group Art Unit 3672

Examiner Name Frank Tsay

Attorney Docket Number MRKS/0039.C1

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		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
	A55	US-4,646,827	03-03-1987	Cobb	
	A56	US-4,649,777	03-17-1987	Buck	
	A57	US-4,667,752	05-26-1987	Berry, et al.	
	A58	US-4,676,312	06-30-1987	Mosing, et al.	
	A59	US-4,683,962	08-04-1987	True	
	A60	US-4,691,587	09-08-1987	Farrand, et al.	
	A61	US-4,709,599	12-01-1987	Buck	
	A62	US-4,709,766	12-01-1987	Bojadjeff	
	A63	US-4,738,145	04-19-1988	Vincent, et al.	
	A64	US-4,742,876	05-10-1988	Barthelemy, et al.	
	A65	US-4,759,239	07-26-1988	Hamilton, et al.	
	A66	US-4,765,401	08-23-1988	Bojadjeff	
	A67	US-4,773,689	09-27-1988	Wolters	
	A68	US-4,775,009	10-04-1988	Wittrisch, et al.	
	A69	US-4,781,359	11-01-1988	Matus	
	A70	US-4,788,544	11-29-1988	Howard	
	A71	US-4,791,997	12-20-1988	Krasnov	
	A72	US-4,793,422	12-27-1988	Krasnov	

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		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)				
	B16	EP 1 256 691	11-13-2002	Hawkins, et al.		
	B17	FR 2 841 293	12-26-2003	Bouygues Offshore		
	B18	GB 2 115 940	09-14-1983	Plaquin		
	B19	GB 2 224 481	09-05-1990	Voeten		
	B20	GB 2 275 486	04-15-1993	Eiane, et al.		

Date Considered

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Sheet 5

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	A73	US-4,800,968	01-31-1989	Shaw, et al.	
	A74	US-4,806,928	02-21-1989	Veneruso	
	A75	US-4,813,493	03-21-1989	Shaw, et al.	
	A76	US-4,836,064	06-06-1989	Slator	
	A77	US-4,867,236	09-19-1989	Haney, et al.	
	A78	US-4,878,546	11-07-1989	Shaw, et al.	
	A79	US-4,901,069	02-13-1990	Veneruso	
	A80	US-4,936,382	06-26-1990	Thomas	
	A81	US-4,962,579	10-16-1990	Moyer, et al.	
	A82	US-5,009,265	04-23-1991	Bailey, et al.	
	A83	US-5,036,927	08-06-1991	Willis	
	A84	US-5,141,063	08-25-1992	Quesenbury	
	A85	US-5,176,518	01-05-1993	Hordijk, et al.	
	A86	US-5,191,932	03-09-1993	Seefried, et al.	
	A87	US-5,224,540	07-06-1993	Streich, et al.	
	A88	US-5,233,742	08-10-1993	Gray, et al.	
	A89	US-5,245,265	09-14-1993	Clay	
	A90	US-5,251,709	10-12-1993	Richardson	

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		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)				
	B21	GB 2 294 715	08-05-1996	Tibbits		
	B22	GB 2 349 401	11-01-2000	Roberts, et al.		
	B23	GB 2 352 747	07-02-2001	Davis, et al.		
	B24	GB 2 357 530	06-27-2001	Schulze-Beckinghausen		
	B25	GB 2 372 765	09-04-2002	Head		

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A91	US-5,271,468		12-21-1993	Streich, et al.	
A92	US-5,305,839		04-26-1994	Kalsi, et al.	
A93	US-5,332,043		07-26-1994	Ferguson	
A94	US-5,351,767		10-04-1994	Stogner, et al.	
A95	US-5,388,651		02-14-1995	Berry	
A96	US-5,394,823		03-07-1995	Lenze	
A97	US-5,433,279		07-18-1995	Tassari, et al.	
A98	US-5,494,122		02-27-1996	Larsen, et al.	
A99	US-5,501,286		03-26-1996	Berry	
A100	US-5,503,234		04-02-1996	Clanton	
A111	US-5,540,279		07-30-1996	Branch, et al.	
A112	US-5,542,472		08-06-1996	Pringle, et al.	
A113	US-5,542,473		08-06-1996	Pringle, et al.	
A114	US-5,553,672		09-10-1996	Smith, Jr., et al.	
A115	US-5,577,566		11-26-1996	Albright, et al.	
A116	US-5,645,131		07-08-1997	Trevisani	
A117	US-5,706,894		01-13-1998	Hawkins, III	
A118	US-5,791,410		08-11-1998	Castille, et al.	

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Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)				
B26	GB 709 365		05-19-1954	Standard Oil Development		
B27	GB 716 761		10-13-1954	Standard Oil Development		
B28	GB 881 358		11-01-1961	Kammerer, et al.		
B29	GB 2 350 137		11-22-2000	Baugh, et al.		
B30	RU 2 079 633		05-20-1997	Abdrakhmanov		

Date Considered

Examiner

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

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Sheet 7

of 12

Application Number	10/621,971
Filing Date	July 17, 2003
First Named Inventor	Bernd Georg Pietras
Group Art Unit	3672
Examiner Name	Frank Tsay
Attorney Docket Number	MRKS/0039.C1
Customer No.	36735

Submission Date January 11, 2005

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
A119	US-5,803,191		09-08-1998	Mackintosh	
A120	US-5,813,456		09-29-1998	Milner, et al.	
A121	US-5,836,395		11-17-1998	Budde	
A122	US-5,839,515		11-24-1998	Yuan, et al.	
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A124	US-5,907,664		05-25-1999	Wang, et al.	
A125	US-5,909,768		06-08-1999	Castille, et al.	
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A129	US-6,056,060		05-02-2000	Abrahamsen, et al.	
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A133	US-6,142,545		11-07-2000	Penman, et al.	
A134	US-6,161,617		12-19-2000	Gjedebo	
A135	US-6,173,777		01-16-2001	Mullins	
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Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)				
B31	WO 00/39429		07-06-2000	Pietras		
B32	WO 00/39430		07-06-2000	Pietras		
B33	WO 00/46484		08-10-2000	Van Buren, et al.		
B34	WO 00/66879		11-09-2000	Hawkins, et al.		
B35	WO 02/081863		10-17-2002	Simpson, et al.		

Date Considered

Examiner

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STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

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Sheet 8

of 12

Application Number	10/621,971
Filing Date	July 17, 2003
First Named Inventor	Bernd Georg Pietras
Group Art Unit	3672
Examiner Name	Frank Tsay
Attorney Docket Number	MRKS/0039.C1
Customer No.	36735
Submission Date	January 11, 2005

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
	A137	US-6,223,823	05-01-2001	Head	
	A138	US-6,227,587	05-08-2001	Terral	
	A139	US-6,275,938	08-14-2001	Bond, et al.	
	A140	US-6,290,432	09-18-2001	Exley, et al.	
	A141	US-6,305,469	10-23-2001	Coenen, et al.	
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	A143	US-6,349,764	02-26-2002	Adams, et al.	
	A144	US-6,360,633	03-26-2002	Pietras	
	A145	US-6,367,566	04-09-2002	Hill	
	A146	US-6,374,506	04-23-1993	Clay	
	A147	US-6,392,317	05-21-2002	Hall, et al.	
	A148	US-6,429,784	08-06-2002	Beique, et al.	
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	A150	US-6,446,723	09-10-2002	Ramons, et al.	
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	A154	US-6,691,801	02-17-2004	Juhasz, et al.	

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Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)				
	B36	WO 02/44601	06-06-2002	Appleford, et al.		
	B37	WO 03/087525	10-23-2003	Vincent, et al.		
	B38	WO 93/07358	04-15-1993	Eiane, et al.		
	B39	WO 96/18799	06-20-1996	Stokka		
	B40	WO 98/05844	02-12-1998	Stokka		

Date Considered

Examiner

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 9

of 12

Application Number 10/621,971

Filing Date July 17, 2003

First Named Inventor Bernd Georg Pietras

Group Art Unit 3672

Examiner Name Frank Tsay

Attorney Docket Number MRKS/0039.C1

Customer No. 36735

Submission Date January 11, 2005

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
A155	US-6,698,595		03-02-2004	Norell, et al.	
A156	US-6,725,938		04-27-2004	Pietras	
A157	US-6,742,596		06-01-2004	Haugen	
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Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)				
B41	WO 98/11322		03-19-1998	Gjedebo		
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B43	WO 99/35368		07-15-1999	Lohbeck, et al.		
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B45	WO 99/58810		11-18-1999	Abrahamsen, et al.		

Date Considered

Examiner

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Sheet 10

of 12

Application Number

10/621,971

Filing Date

July 17, 2003

First Named Inventor

Bernd Georg Pietras

Group Art Unit

3672

Examiner Name

Frank Tsay

Attorney Docket Number

MRKS/0039.C1

Customer No.

36735

Submission Date

January 11, 2005

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

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		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
A173	US-2004/0108142		06-10-2004	Vail, III	
A174	US-2004/0112646		06-17-2004	Vail	
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A177	US-2004/0124015		07-01-2004	Vaile, et al.	
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A186	US-				
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A188	US-				
A189	US-				
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		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)				
B46	FR 2741907		06-06-1997	Leighton		
B47						
B48						
B49						
B50						

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

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Sheet 11

of 12

Application Number	10/621,971
Filing Date	July 17, 2003
First Named Inventor	Bernd Georg Pietras
Group Art Unit	3672
Examiner Name	Frank Tsay
Attorney Docket Number	MRKS/0039.C1
Customer No.	36735

Submission Date

January 11, 2005

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		DETLEF HAHN, FRIEDHELM MAKOHL, and LARRY WATKINS, Casing-While Drilling System Reduces Hole Collapse Risks, Offshore, Pages 54, 56, and 59, February 1998	
		YAKOV A. GELFGAT, MIKHAIL Y. GELFGAT and YURI S. LOPATIN, Retractable Drill Bit Technology – Drilling Without Pulling Out Drillpipe, Advanced Drilling Solutions Lessons From the FSU; June 2003; Vol. 2, pps. 351-464	
		TOMMY WARREN, SPE, BRUCE HOUTCHENS, SPE, GARRET MADELL, SPE, Directional Drilling With Casing, SPE/IADC 79914, Tesco Corporation, SPE/IADC Drilling Conference 2003	
		LaFleur Petroleum Services, Inc., "Autoseal Circulating Head," Engineering Manufacturing, 1992, 11 Pages	
		Valves Wellhead Equipment Safety Systems, W-K-M Division, ACF Industries, Catalog 80, 1980, 5 Pages	
		Canrig Top Drive Drilling Systems, Harts Petroleum Engineer International, February 1997, 2 Pages	
		The Original Portable Top Drive Drilling System, TESCO Drilling Technology, 1997	
		MIKE KILLALEA, Portable Top Drives: What's Driving The Market?, IADC, Drilling Contractor, September 1994, 4 Pages	
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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

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Sheet 12

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		500 or 650 HCIS Top Drive, Powerful Hydraulic Compact Top Drive Drilling System, TESCO Drilling Technology, April 1998, 2 Pages	
		Product Information (Sections 1-10) CANRIG Drilling Technology, Ltd., September 18, 1996	

Examiner

Date Considered

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